



### P R E F A C E



Andrès Fortunato, Secretary General, YMCA of Dominican Republic, Frédéric Boisrond and two participants of the Leadership program in Santo Domingo.

I am pleased to forward you the progress report on the implementation of the YMCA of Haiti. We expect that it will be completed by March 31, 2002. You will note that this report was written by the team at the Centre Jeunesse. In my opinion, it reflects how quickly the project has matured, the sense of responsibility of those involved, the sound structure which all partners involved provided them and, in particular, the willingness of each and everyone to give Haitians a YMCA worthy of its name.

If I rely upon the archives I consulted in Haiti, the first attempts to implement a YMCA go back to 1966. These all ended in failure. According to my research, the first projects in Haiti in which the Montreal YMCA was involved occurred in 1972. In 1976, the Montreal YMCA supported a project in the community of Saintard. At the beginning of the '80s, we abandoned this project because the people involved in Haiti were unable to prove the validity of their project and could not demonstrate that the funding provided by the Montreal YMCA was being managed properly.

For all of these reasons, all of us who were involved in this project, from near or far, can be proud of our contribution. You met a considerable challenge by showing confidence in the capabilities of the youth of Haiti.

I believe that the Youth Centre, which is now known as KONBIT, has been built on a solid base and that the people involved with it are well aware of the importance of their tasks and their enormous responsibility. The future of our first point of service in Haiti depends on the partners respecting the commitments they made during the implementation process. I am confident that the Centre is there to stay and that it will continue to develop and respond to the growing needs of the Haitian youth.

Our work is now focused on finding partners who are willing to support similar initiatives in other neighborhoods or cities of Haiti. We have informed the YMCA of France, the YMCA of Switzerland, the YMCA of the United States, the Heifer Foundation and World Vision. The support we received from the YMCA of the Dominican Republic is simply invaluable. Here, in Canada, we are continuing to provide information, in order to make both our successes and our plans for the future known.

To date, I have received projects for the Lévy farm, in Camp-Perrin and for the St-Gérard neighborhood in Port-au-Prince. These groups have been involved in the implementation process for several years. Some of the persons involved participated in the training given by Carlos Sanvee, in March 2000. Moreover, I have received an official communication from the government of Haiti inviting us to build a physical education centre in a modern neighborhood. It has been agreed with World Vision that we will work on implementing a pilot project, most probably for l'Île de la Gonâve.

Upon reading this report, you will note how quickly the Centre Jeunesse Konbit is developing. It will no doubt incite your willingness to pursue the work we have undertaken. You would be surprised to know the number of people who are showing an interest in contributing to the development of the YMCA in Haiti. For all of these reasons and many more, we have the obligation to succeed. ■

Frédéric Boisrond,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve YMCA

[1] Konbit: Creole expression signifying the pooling of resources of people from the same community for the accomplishment of important work (especially during harvest time)



Jour de konbit - Konbit day

## Prea le

### PREAMBLE...

Many various people from the YMCA have worked with us in Haiti over the past 28 years: Frédéric Boisrond, Sheila Laursen, Catarina Milani, Carlos Sanvee, Nick Nightingale, Martin Vogler, Silvana Anania, Sandra Pike-Anthony, Andrès Fortunato, Rick McDaniel and many others. They never stopped believing in the feasibility of establishing a YMCA in Haiti. They gave us both their leadership and their sense of responsibilities, which helped us find the necessary funding to realize this project. Through this first report, we take the opportunity

to thank them for the good work they accomplished. Also, we especially wish to thank the organizations which guaranteed the financing for the first three years of Centre Jeunesse Konbit: CIDA, the World Alliance of YMCAs, the Montreal YMCA and the du Parc YMCA.

To Frédéric Boisrond, who deserves much more than our thanks, the Centre Jeunesse Konbit of the YMCA of Haiti dedicates this first report to him, in gratitude for so much work accomplished so effectively. ■



## Activities

### ACTIVITIES...

The Centre Jeunesse Konbit was officially opened on October 13, 2001. The main activity of the month was Konbit day, reserved for the cleaning of the centre. In fact, eighty-two people helped out. On that day, the Centre was visited by Dr. Louis Gérard Gilles, Senator of the Republic and Mr. Hermann Nau, Secretary of State for Youth, Sports and Civic Services. Their presence not only gave an official character to our first activity but also gave us the support we so greatly desired. Two companies - Tropic S.A. and Kola Larco S. A. - graciously provided us with refreshments for this memorable day.

The Centre also organized two other activities, on October 20th and October 27th respectively. The purpose of the first activity was to sensitize the youth on the civic significance of the commemoration of the anniversary of the death of the

founder of the Haitian homeland, the Emperor Jean Jacques Dessalines. It was also held to form, from among those present, three work committees which would help structure the office: the installations committee, the recruitment committee and the activities committee.

The second activity took place to allow the three committees previously mentioned to work on making recommendations to the steering committee and create a democratic administration of the Centre, while encouraging the participation of its members.

November was marked by the immersion trip to the Dominican Republic organized and realized by Andrès Fortunato, Ezéchiél Mojica Ramirez, Rick McDaniel, Frédéric Boisrond and the steering committee.

During this necessary, instructive trip these budding leaders from the Centre Jeunesse Konbit of the Haiti YMCA had the opportunity to see how the YMCA of Santo Domingo had proceeded to build its leadership program. The lessons learned from these pragmatic leaders of the Santo Domingo YMCA also helped us establish programming for the Centre Jeunesse Konbit.

ACTIVITIES — Cont'd at page 2



## ACTIVITIES — ... page 2

**THE FOLLOWING  
ACTIVITIES WERE CHOSEN:**

**Rules of Operations and Membership:** To make administrators, employees and volunteers aware of their responsibilities and to develop rules of ethics.

**Promoting YMCA Values:** To reinforce the identity of the organization, to make the YMCA and its position better known, and to instill YMCA values in the membership.

**Awareness of the Members' Potential:** To identify human resources in place, and to recruit leaders and volunteers for the various activities.

**Training and Welcoming New Members:** To increase the membership and the participation in services.

Two other meetings took place during the month of November. This was a time during which the agenda established in Santo Domingo was

## Finances

**FINANCES...**

Of the \$15 000.00 US which was transferred to our account during this quarter, \$14 469.00 US was spent, 80% of which was for the following 4 items: Salary (\$3 595.00), Installations (\$3 990.00), Travel (\$2 402.00) and Rent (\$2 400.00).

It is important to underline that all major budget items were respected: \$3 966.00 US was budgeted for 3 salary positions, while \$3 595.00 US was actually spent. Also, \$3 305.00 US was allocated for rent, while \$2 400.00 US was actually spent. And, when adding items 10, 12, 13 and 14 of the budget, we note that \$4 164.00 US was budgeted while expenditures are estimated at \$3 990.00 US.

This brief analysis leads us to confirm that the budget, as established in April 2001, will be respected in every way for the first quarter ending March 31, 2002.

In fact, of the \$10 283.00 US which has yet to be transferred, according to the budget, it is expected that for Salary and Rent expenses for these items will be in the same proportions; while for the Installations and Travel items a substantial decrease in expenses is foreseen. A partial statement of expenditures made during this quarter is provided below, to allow you to better understand the financial portion of this report. ■

**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES**

Salary	3 595.00
Installations	3 990.00
Travel	2 402.00
Rent	2 400.00
Activities	657.00
Misc. expenses	588.00
Water, elect., tel.	240.00
Office supplies	346.00
Transportation	64.00
Bank charges	187.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 469.00</b>

**Creating a Reading Centre:** To promote reading, to give access to information and to supervise the children.

**Promoting the YMCA in the Community:** To increase the membership and to facilitate communication with the community.

**Developing the Leadership Program:** To facilitate the parent-youth-community relationship, to enhance participant leadership, to train participants in the following areas: first aid, fire prevention, etc.

**Civic Action:** To protect the environment and the creation of God, to prevent illness and to contribute to improving health (salubrity).

**Organizing Accompanying Activities:** To integrate outcasts or handicapped individuals in national life, to lead recreational, sport and educational activities, to form new partnerships with other institutions of the Haitian society, and to sensitize youths to the realities of outcasts.

**English and Literacy Courses:** To promote exchanges, to facilitate integration in the job market and to allow parents to better supervise their children with their homework.

**Daycare Services for Single Mothers:** To allow mothers to continue their studies or search for employment, and to allow children to benefit from decent care and educational services.

outlined; the group which made the trip to Santo Domingo was reinforced; a gynecologist, Dr. Aurélus, was invited to the Centre to facilitate



Jour de konbit - Konbit day

## Administration

**ADMINISTRATION...**

The beginning of the quarter coincided with the end of the mandate of the restructuring committee implemented in November 2000. This committee organized seminars to help prepare the plan for the opening of the Centre Jeunesse and helped

an information session on STDs and AIDS and a reading centre was set up. This program had us working in the same spirit we had during the day we spent cleaning the Centre and when we took possession of the space on October 13th. In fact, our library now contains 400 books, magazines and documents loaned by some members of the Centre who wanted to initiate this program which they considered a personal challenge. In addition, a seminar was held by Gwénaél Apollon during which he taught young members how to prepare a resume. This activity gave the Centre the opportunity to create a personal file with a corresponding number for each member, thus facilitating access to the activities for members. In all, three hundred people participated in these 6 meetings.

At the beginning of December, the values advocated by the Centre Jeunesse were displayed on the walls, both on the inside and outside of the building: RESPECT, LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, EMPOWERMENT. December was marked by the Christmas party organized on December 22nd. It was intended to

rent the space which houses our Centre. However, given the magnitude of the administrative work anticipated, we had to form a steering committee composed of members who were more experienced in administration and were more apt to be trained in this area. It is with this in mind that a steering committee was created to manage the Centre with future staff members.

The steering committee is composed of Guerline Frédéric, President, Bertrande Bourdeau, member, and Jacques Juvigny, member.

The Centre Jeunesse has hired its 2 first employees: Sherley Elie, Secretary-Receptionist and Agénor Cilain, guard-messenger. An administrative assistant will soon join the other staff members to strengthen the management team. The Centre also

raise funds to install a recognition plaque in honor of all those who helped us both technically and financially. A Christmas tree was donated to the Centre for the circumstance, and the youth were helped by the steering committee to decorate it. This activity which perhaps was of little importance for some was important for others since some had never decorated a Christmas tree and many had never had a tree at home.

In December, we also created 4 clubs: the sports club, women's club, games club and reading club. These 4 clubs brought together the thirty or so most dynamic members of the Centre.

Moreover, through the intermediary of Mrs. Desvarieux, we received blankets from American Airlines which we quickly offered to disadvantaged children at the Foyer des enfants humanistes, in Kenscoff. It was visited by Guerline Frédéric and Gwénaél Apollon accompanied the Board of Directors of the Cnao des humanistes d'Haïti, on December 6th. ■

benefits from the services of a consultant, Gwénaél Apollon, whose mandate is to identify and train a coordinator.

As regards staff turnover, it should be noted that health problems have prevented our secretary-receptionist to pursue the work she began with us last October. Members of the Centre organized a system whereby volunteers take turns doing the work and ensure a presence and permanency at the Centre.

Moreover, work meetings are organized on a regular basis with the small group of 6 people who represent the nucleus of a group of leaders. These young people are learning how to prepare, organize and lead meetings, facilitate activities and motivate young people. They are also discovering many other facets of leadership. ■

## Perspectives

**PERSPECTIVES...**

During the next quarter, the Centre Jeunesse Konbit will make every effort to structure the 4 clubs organized in December (sports, women's, games, reading). The Centre will work towards tripling its number of members, now estimated at 118. We will also continue to organize planned activities for the immersion trip to Santo Domingo.

Furthermore, our volunteer, Jean Valier Sanon, who is responsible for relations with the public, is doing an excellent job.



Leadership session

Because of this, the YMCA of Haiti has already received an invitation to reserve a piece of land in the new "quartier 2004", in Port-au-Prince, with a view to build a physical fitness centre.

Moreover, Gwénaél Apollon will continue to work in close collaboration with Frédéric Boisrond to pro-

vide necessary assistance to the group at Centre St-Gérard, in Port-au-Prince, to World Vision, in Lagonave and to the Ferme de Lévy, in Camp-Perrin, in order to help them structure their youth centre projects. Our goal is to find partners to open 5 youth centres over the next 5 years.

The discussions with Mr. St. Louis, the lawyer responsible for our file on incorporation matters will be maintained. We hope that the YMCA of Haiti will have a legal status as soon as possible. Once we have completed this phase, we will proceed with the official inauguration of the YMCA of Haiti, which will hopefully occur in May 2002. ■